REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4-10 are presently pending in this application.

RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077684 to Clemens et al. ("Clemens") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077683 to Westlund et al. ("Westlund"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

Clemens describes a perfusion lead and method of its use. The perfusion lead has an elongated lead body (12) with an electrode assembly (16) operatively associated with one end, and a terminal assembly (50) associated with the other end. The connector assembly (50) has a terminal pin (54) and sealing rings (52) for connecting to the end of the lead body (12). Terminal assembly (50) has with multiple ports (58, 60, 61).

Westlund describes a seal for use with a lead having a distal tip adapted for implantation on or about the heart and for connection to a system for monitoring or stimulating cardiac activity. Lead 800 has a terminal pin 860. Westlund also discloses a seal mechanism 820 having a side injection port 880, wherein seal mechanism 820 attaches to terminal pin 860 by squeezing terminal pin 860 in an elastomeric grommet 822. Figure 9 shows how threaded portions of body 830 and locking hub 821 can cooperate threadably to squeeze grommet 822 onto terminal pin 860 by twisting body 830 and hub 821 with respect to each other.

In contrast to both references, Claim 1 recites an implantable cardiac lead having, among other things, a connector assembly operatively associated with the proximal end portion of the lead body for engaging a corresponding receptacle of a pulse generating device, the connector assembly having an engagement stem depending proximally therefrom, wherein the guidewire lumen and the fluid delivery lumen of the lead body extend through the engagement stem of the connector assembly, and wherein the engagement stem includes a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion distal to the proximal tip portion. The implantable cardiac lead also includes, among other things, a detachable ported connector fitting having a main body portion and a branch portion which extends from the main body portion, wherein the main body portion has an engagement bore at a distal end thereof for receiving the engagement stem of the connector assembly, the engagement bore having a proximal receiving section configured to receive the proximal tip portion of the engagement stem and a threaded engaging section distal to the proximal receiving section of the engagement bore and configured to engage the threaded engagement portion of the engagement stem.

While Clemens discloses a lead body 12 with a plurality of lumens extending therethrough and an adapter 58 having a plurality of ports, Clemens fails to provide any written description or illustration of the manner in which the lumens of the lead body communicate with the ports of the adapter. Indeed, as previously noted by the Examiner, at page 4 of the Office Action mailed July 26, 2006 (repeated again at Page 3 of the outstanding Office Action), "Clemens shows a connector assembly with an engagement stem (54) and a ported connector with an engagement bore, and it isn't clear how they are coupled, Clemens fails to specifically show the engagement stem and engagement bore are threaded." It is therefore well established

on the record that Clemens et al. do not teach, suggest, or disclose each and every element recited in Claim 1. Particularly, Clamens fails to disclose the engagement stem including a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion distal to the proximal tip portion, as recited in Claim 1. Clemens also fails to disclose a threaded engaging section distal to the proximal receiving section of the engagement bore and configured to engage the threaded engagement portion of the engagement stem, as recited in Claim 1.

Regarding Westlund, Fig. 9 clearly shows that the terminal pin 860 is not threaded. *A fortiori*, the seal mechanism 820 does not have any threads for engaging the (non-existant) threaded section of terminal pin 860. Rather than engaging one another via a threaded connection, terminal pin 860 and seal mechanism 820 are engaged by a grommet 822. In order to squeeze grommet 822, bodies 821 and 830 are threadably engaged to one another. However threaded bodies 821 and 830 threadably engage each other, not the terminal pin 860 of lead 800. Therefore, Westlund does not remedy the deficiencies of Clemens described above. The structures recited Claim 1 that are missing in Clemens simply are not present in the grommet configuration of Westlund. Specifically, Westlund does not teach, suggest, or disclose an engagement stem including a proximal tip portion and a threaded engagement portion distal to the proximal tip portion, as recited in Claim 1. Nor does Westlund teach, suggest, or disclose a threaded engaging section distal to the proximal receiving section of the engagement bore and configured to engage the threaded engagement portion of the engagement stem, as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore Westlund and Clemens, alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest, or disclose each and every element recited in Claim 1. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully

submitted that there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to Claim 1 based on Westlund and Clemens. Claims 4-10 depend from Claim 1 and thus include all of the elements recited in Claim 1. Therefore, with resect to Claims 4-10 there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the prior art of record. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims now pending in the subject application, namely Claims 1 and 4-10, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should any further information be required to facilitate allowance of the subject application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 28, 2007

Joshua L. Jones, Reg. No. 57,044
Attorney/Agent for Applicant
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE, LLP
Intellectual Property Practice Group
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel. (203) 353-6870
Fax. (617) 439-4170